



Australian Bureau of Statistics

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Summary

Main Features

PREFACE

This publication is the fourth volume of a series detailing the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). This publication describes the Significant Urban Area (SUA) and the Urban Centre and Locality/Section of State (UCL/SOS) Structures of the ASGS.

The SUA provides a geographical standard for the publication of statistics about concentrations of urban development with a population of 10,000 people or more. The regions are constructed from whole Statistical Areas Level 2 (SA2s).

The UCL/SOS structure provides a definition of urban areas. These regions are constructed from whole Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1s). SOS further aggregates the UCLs in each state on the basis of their population.

The ASGS represents a more comprehensive, flexible and consistent way of defining Australia's statistical geography than the previous geographic classification used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). For further information, or to assist you to move from the previous ASGC to the ASGS please refer to the ABS website at www.abs.gov.au/geography.

The ASGS brings all the regions for which the ABS publishes statistics within the one framework and is being used by the ABS for the dissemination of geographically classified statistics from 1 July 2011. It is the framework for understanding and interpreting the geographical context of statistics published by the ABS. The ABS also encourages the use of the ASGS by other organisations to improve the comparability and usefulness of statistics generally.

This publication is the fourth volume of a series detailing the ASGS. Already published are:

- Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001) released in December 2010.
- Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 2 - Indigenous Structure, July 2011 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.002) released in September 2011.
- Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 3 - Non ABS Structures, July 2011 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.003) released in July 2011, updated in July 2012.

ASGS Volume 5 will be released in late 2012 or early 2013:

- Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 5 - Remoteness Structure, July 2011 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.005).

The digital boundaries, codes and names for the regions described in this volume are available free of charge from the ABS website at www.abs.gov.au/geography.

Any enquires regarding the ASGS, the SUA and UCL/SOS structures or suggestions for their improvement can be made by emailing geography@abs.gov.au.

About this Release

This volume details the concepts and criteria used to define Urban Centre and Localities (UCLs) and Significant Urban Areas (SUAs) under the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). The ASGS UCLs are broadly comparable to the UCLs published in the past. SUAs are new, they define urban concentrations, towns and cities with an urban population of 10,000 and above. The digital boundaries, names and codes of these regions are available as downloads from the ABS Website.

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Purpose

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PURPOSE

This volume describes the Significant Urban Area (SUA) and Urban Centre and Locality/ Section of State (UCL/SOS) Structures of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). For each of these structures it details:

- the purpose of each structure
- the hierarchy of regions within each structure
- the delimitation of the various regions
- their relationship with similar structures in the previous Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)
- the naming conventions
- the coding conventions.

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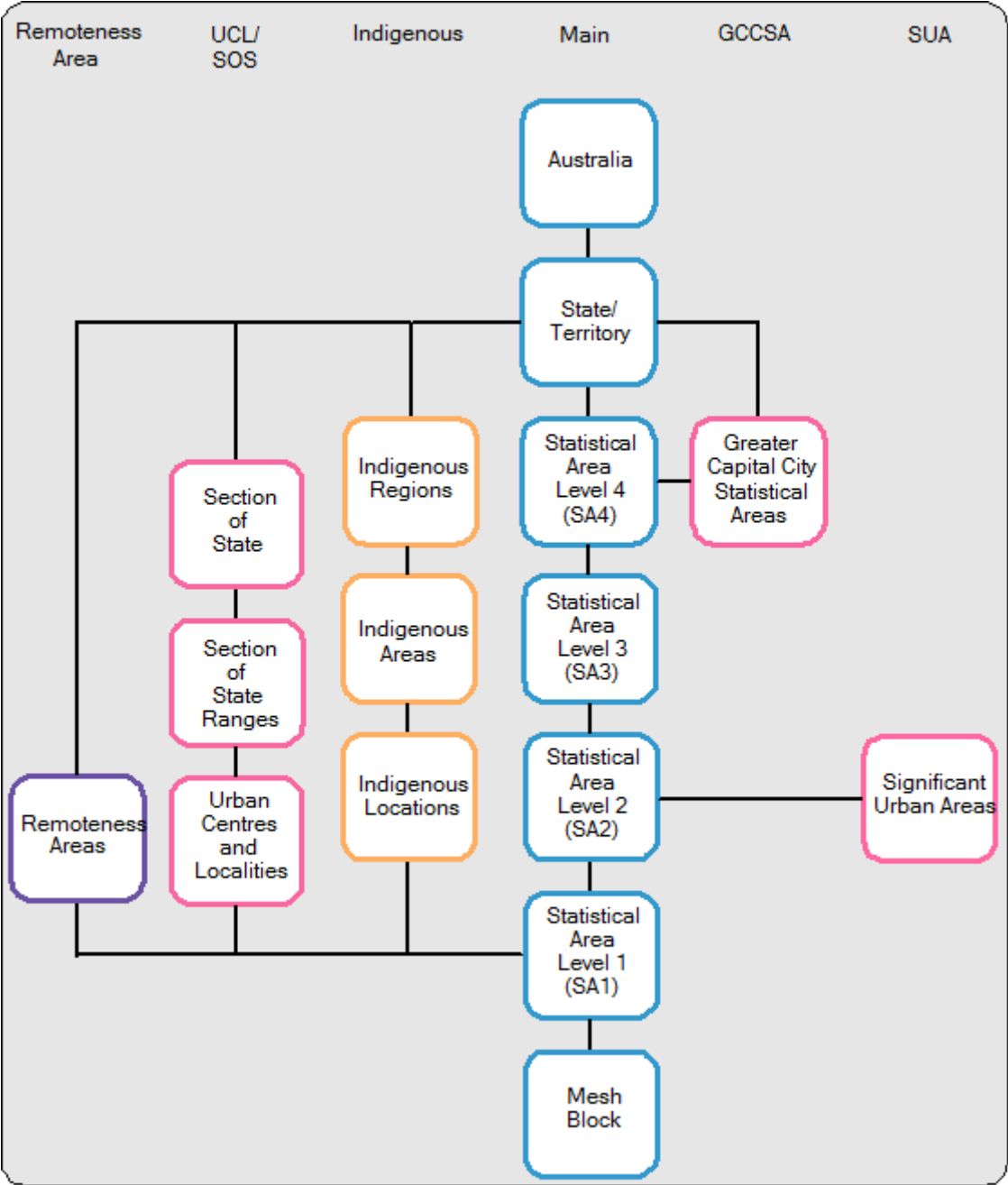
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CLASSIFICATION STRUCTURE

Diagram 1, below, depicts the SUA and UCL/SOS Structures, the component regions of each and how they relate to the rest of the ASGS. Both are ABS structures as they are defined and maintained by the ABS.

DIAGRAM 1: ASGS ABS STRUCTURES



SUMMARY TABLE

Table 1 summarises the number of regions at each level of the SUA and UCL/SOS structures for each State or Territory (S/T).

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF URBAN CENTRE AND LOCALITY/SECTION OF STATE STRUCTURE AND SIGNIFICANT URBAN AREA UNITS AT JULY 2011

Spatial Unit	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	OT(a)	Aust.
UCL(b)	540	353	415	170	178	102	69	5	7	1 839
SOSR(b)	13	12	13	10	11	11	9	5	5	89
SOS(c)	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	52
SUA(d)	40	24	19	9	11	6	3	2	1	110

(a) Other Territories (OT) includes the Territories of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island and Jervis Bay.
(b) Includes records for Remainder of State/Territory, No usual address and Migratory - Offshore - Shipping for each state and territory.
(c) Includes records for No usual address and Migratory - Offshore - Shipping for each state and territory.
(d) SUAs crossing S/T borders are included in each of the S/T totals. Each is counted only once in the Australia total.

Significant Urban Area (SUA)

SIGNIFICANT URBAN AREA (SUA)

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Purpose

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PURPOSE

The Significant Urban Area (SUA) structure of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) is used to disseminate a broad range of ABS social and demographic statistics. It represents concentrations of urban development with a population of 10,000 or more using whole Statistical Areas Level 2 (SA2s). They do not necessarily represent a single Urban Centre, as they can represent a cluster of related Urban Centres with a core urban population over 10,000. They can also include related peri-urban and satellite development and the area into which the urban development is likely to expand.

The use of whole SA2s allows the SUAs to be identified in non-Census data, for example Estimated Resident Population.

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Structure

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STRUCTURE

The structure only has one level above the SA2 level of the ASGS main structure. Parts of a State or Territory (S/T) not in an SUA are combined to form a 'Not in any significant urban area' region. The SUA structure does not aggregate to S/T, as SUAs may cross a S/T boundary. The SUAs and the individual 'Not in any significant urban area' regions cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps.

From the Mesh Block level the complete list of spatial units in this structure are:

- Mesh Blocks
- Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1)
- SA2s
- SUAs
- Australia

For more information regarding the MBs, SA1s, and SA2s, please refer to [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011](#) (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001).

Significant Urban Area (SUA)

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SIGNIFICANT URBAN AREA (SUA)

DELIMITATION OF SUAs

The regions of the SUA structure are constructed from whole SA2s. They are clusters of one or more contiguous SA2s containing one or more related Urban Centres joined using the following criteria:

- they are in the same labour market
- they contain related Urban Centres where the edges of the Urban Centres are less than 5km apart defined by road distance
- they have an aggregate urban population exceeding 10,000 persons
- at least one of the related Urban Centres has an urban population of 7,000 persons or more.

For the purposes of applying these criteria, a Labour Market is defined as:

- a Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA)
- the combined Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4) of **Newcastle and Lake Macquarie** and **Hunter Valley exc Newcastle** as these represent a single labour market
- adjacent SA4s across a S/T boundary.

Road distance is measured along the most direct sealed road with a centre line joining two Urban Centres. The distance is measured from the Urban Centre boundaries as defined by the UCL/SOS structure (see Chapter 3).

SA1s not in an SUA are combined to form a 'Not in any significant urban area' region for each S/T.

COMPARABILITY WITH STATISTICAL DISTRICTS

SUAs represent a new structure without precedent in the ASGC. For regional cities with a population of 25,000 or more, SUAs are broadly comparable to Statistical Districts (S Dists). It is important to recognise that there are a number of key differences between the SUAs and the S Dists.

SUAs:

- define all cities and towns with a population over 10,000; Statistical Districts only identified Regional Cities over 25,000 people
- are defined for capital cities, satellite cities and towns within the GCCSA; S Dists were only defined outside Capital City Statistical Divisions
- are defined using whole SA2s; S Dists were defined using whole Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs)

- may combine one or more related Urban Centres; S Dists only represented a single Urban Centre.

SUA NAMES

The key criteria for SUA names are that they be:

- meaningful
- a maximum of 40 characters
- unique, i.e. not shared by any other SUA in Australia.

Where an SUA represents a single dominant centre then it is named for that centre:

- Alice Springs
- Albany
- Mount Gambier.

Where an SUA represents a combination of two centres of comparable importance, it is named for both centres separated by spaces and a hyphen:

- Gladstone - Tannum Sands
- Warragul - Drouin
- Kalgoorlie - Boulder.

Where an SUA crosses a S/T border, it is named after the largest centre on each side, separated by spaces and a hyphen:

- Gold Coast - Tweed Heads
- Mildura - Buronga
- Canberra - Queanbeyan.

Where an SUA represents a region with a widely recognised name, it is named for that region:

- Sunshine Coast
- Central Coast.

SUA CODING STRUCTURE

An SUA is identifiable by a unique 4 digit non-hierarchical code. The SUA code is unique within Australia. The regions representing those parts of a S/T 'Not in a significant urban area' have codes ending in 000:

- 5009 Perth
- 1012 Dubbo
- 8000 Not in a Significant Urban Area (ACT).

Related Material

Contents >> Significant Urban Area (SUA) >> Related Material

RELATED MATERIAL

The related material listed below is available for the SUA structure from the ABS website at <<https://www.abs.gov.au/geography>>.

- Maps of the SUAs in '.pdf' format.
- Digital boundaries for the SUAs as MapInfo Interchange Format files (.mid .mif) and ESRI Shape files (.shp).
- Codes, labels and hierarchies for SUAs in '.csv' format.
- Selected correspondences between SUAs and other ASGS regions.

Urban Centre and Locality/Section of State (UCL/SOS)

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URBAN CENTRE AND LOCALITY/SECTION OF STATE (UCL/SOS)

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PURPOSE

The Urban Centres and Localities/Section of State (UCL/SOS) structure is intended primarily for the dissemination of statistics from the Census of Population and Housing. The structure represents areas of concentrated urban development. It consists of Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1s) aggregated together to form regions defined according to population density and other criteria.

UCL/SOS does not explicitly define rural Australia; however, in practice, any population not contained in an Urban Centre is considered to be rural. It is important to realise that the Bounded Localities and Rural Remainder areas, commonly combined to define 'rural Australia', contain considerable areas of urban style development, peri-urban development and substantial infrastructure.

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STRUCTURE

The Structure has three hierarchical levels above SA1 comprising in ascending order: Urban Centres and Localities (UCLs), Section of State Range (SOSR) and Section of State (SOS). UCLs can cross State or Territory (S/T) boundaries; the Structure therefore does not aggregate to S/T although where a UCL is bisected by a S/T boundary, each portion of the UCL is separately identified.

The UCL/SOS structure covers the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps

From the Mesh Block level the complete list of spatial units in this structure are:

- Mesh Blocks
- SA1s
- UCLs
- SOSR
- SOS

For more information regarding the Mesh Blocks and SA1s please refer to [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011](#) (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001).

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Urban Centre and Locality (UCL)

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URBAN CENTRE AND LOCALITY (UCL)

DELIMITATION OF UCLs

The UCLs are defined using the following criteria. The population figure used for these criteria is the 'Place of Usual Residence' from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing unless otherwise specified.

All SA1s that satisfy the following criteria are considered 'of urban character' if they:

- have an urban Mesh Block population greater or equal to 45% of the total population and dwelling density greater or equal to 45 dwellings per sq km; or
- have a population density greater or equal to 100 persons per sq km and a dwelling density greater or equal to 50 dwellings per sq km; or
- have a population density greater or equal to 200 person per sq km.

URBAN CENTRES

An Urban Centre is a cluster of contiguous SA1s with an aggregate population exceeding 1,000 persons contained within SA1s that are 'of urban character'.

SA1s meeting at a point are not considered to be 'contiguous'.

SA1s containing the following infrastructure are considered to be 'of urban character' if adjacent to an SA1 'of urban character' as defined above:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- airports with paved runways
- caravan parks
- cemeteries
- community parks and reserves
- defence facilities
- educational institutions

- electricity sub stations
- golf courses
- grain storage
- hospitals
- industrial areas (including meat works and abattoirs)
- non-agricultural commercial development
- office complexes
- parks, reserve areas, foreshore reserves that are between an urban area and the shoreline
- ports and port facilities
- prisons
- racecourses
- railway stations, bus stations and similar transport hubs
- research facilities
- sale yards
- sewerage facilities
- shopping centres
- show grounds
- sports facilities
- tourist attractions (including theme parks)
- tourist resorts
- unpaved airstrips immediately contiguous with the built up area
- waste disposal facilities.

The following infrastructure is not considered urban, unless completely surrounded by urban SA1s, or split a centre that would otherwise be considered a single entity:

- mines
- wineries
- power stations
- dams and reservoirs
- national parks
- forests
- shooting ranges
- explosives handling and munitions areas
- defence force training grounds.

Any area completely surrounded by SA1s which are urban is itself classified as urban. This includes areas that are bounded by an Urban Centre and a shore or coastline.

An adjacent SA1 on the edge of an Urban Centre can be included in that Urban Centre at the discretion of the designer if that SA1 would have been considered as a Locality in its own right (see below) and is obviously part of that Urban Centre.

An adjacent SA1 on the edge of an Urban Centre can be included in an Urban Centre at the discretion of the designer if that SA1, through inappropriate SA1 design, contains features that should otherwise be included in the Urban Centre; even if it does not satisfy previous criteria.

Abutting Urban Centres are to be joined into a single entity unless they are in a separate labour market. For the purposes of applying these criteria a labour market is defined as:

- a Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA)

- the combined Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4) of **Newcastle and Lake Macquarie** and **Hunter Valley exc Newcastle** as these represent a single labour market
- adjacent SA4s across a S/T boundary.

Urban Centres are not joined if they are clearly separated by a major geographic barrier.

All contiguous urban growth is included together with any close (less than 500 metres), but non-contiguous development which could be clearly regarded as part of the Urban Centre. If necessary these can be linked to the Urban Centre through adjoining SA1s, which will also become part of the Urban Centre.

Smaller Urban Centres within 1.5 km of an Urban Centre with a population exceeding 20,000 persons, are subsumed by the larger Urban Centre. They are not joined if they are in separate labour markets or are clearly separated by geographic barriers. The distance is calculated from the SA1 edges of each centre along direct road links. SA1s containing these linking roads are themselves included in the Urban Centre, unless they severely compromise the Urban Centre design. Ferry and rail links are not to be considered.

Discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with a population exceeding 1,000 are considered to be Urban Centres.

Discrete tourist resorts with a population exceeding 1,000 are considered to be Urban Centres.

S/T, Local Government Areas (LGA) and other administrative boundaries are disregarded in determining whether an SA1 should be included within the Urban Centre.

LOCALITIES

Localities are defined according the following criteria:

- Each Locality is to consist of a contiguous cluster of one or more SA1s.
- Each cluster should:
 - contain a population of at least 200 'Usual Residents'
 - represent a clear aggregation of residential population.

Towns with a 'Usual Resident' population of under 200 persons, but with a significantly greater 'As Enumerated' population, are also defined as Localities. These are typically tourism destinations.

The defining of Localities is necessarily more subjective than for Urban Centres as their population can be well below the optimal for a single SA1. SA1 design therefore has a significant influence on their definition. In addition, there are many different configurations of small settlements, including villages, towns, clusters of peri-urban style development, and areas with significant tourism.

A Locality may contain a population exceeding 1,000 persons if it does not meet the criteria for an Urban Centre.

A Locality is not combined with an abutting Urban Centre or Locality unless they are functionally a single entity.

Discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with a population between 200 and 999 are considered Localities.

Discrete tourist resorts with a population between 200 and 999 are considered Localities.

REMAINDER OF STATE/TERRITORY

All SA1s in a S/T, except special purpose SA1s which are not included in an UCL, are combined into 'Remainder of State/Territory' which represents the rural balance of the S/T.

COMPARABILITY WITH PAST DEFINITIONS OF UCLs

The introduction of the ASGS, particularly the SA1s, made it impractical to use the previous Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) UCL and SOS criteria without modification. The UCL criteria were therefore redeveloped with the following considerations:

- The resultant definition of UCLs should be broadly comparable to the past.
- The criteria should be as objective as possible.
- The criteria should be the same regardless of the size of the Urban Centre.
- The outcome should be reproducible from publicly available information, either from the ABS or other sources.

Consequently, the new criteria are different from those used previously. The result identifies a broadly similar set of UCLs as the past definition, containing similar populations. In most cases it is possible to make a valid comparison of the same UCLs across several Censuses. In doing such a comparison it is important to realise that:

- UCLs are dynamic, they grow, absorb nearby centres or decline.
- The regions from which they are built also change with the underlying settlement pattern.

LOCALITIES WITH A POPULATION OVER 1,000

In the past any UCL with a population over 1,000 was automatically considered an Urban Centre. The criteria above allow the identification of developments with some urban characteristics, which do not satisfy all the criteria for an Urban Centre, yet have a population over 1,000. These UCLs are considered to be large Localities.

UCL NAMES

The key criteria for UCL names are that they be:

- meaningful
- have a maximum of 40 characters
- unique, i.e. not shared by any other UCL in Australia.

Where an UCL represents a single dominant centre then it is named for that centre:

- Melbourne

- Sydney
- Townsville

Where an UCL represents a combination of two centres of comparable importance, it is named for both centres separated by a dash, the largest taking precedence:

- Shepparton - Mooroopna
- Bushfield - Woodford
- Berrara - Cudmirrah (L)

Where an UCL crosses a S/T border, the component parts are identified in brackets:

- Gold Coast - Tweed Heads (Gold Coast Part)
- Gold Coast - Tweed Heads (Tweed Heads Part)
- Canberra - Queanbeyan (Canberra Part)
- Canberra - Queanbeyan (Queanbeyan Part)

Where an UCL represents a region with a widely recognised name, then that name is used:

- Sunshine Coast
- Central Coast

Localities have (L) appended to their names to indicate they are Localities and not Urban Centres:

- Agnes Bank (L)
- Avoca (L)
- Mount Burr (L)

Where an UCL name would not otherwise be unique, the S/T abbreviation is appended in brackets:

- Maitland (SA)
- Maitland (NSW)
- Mount Barker (SA)
- Mount Barker (WA)
- Richmond (L) (Tas.)
- Richmond (L) (Qld)

UCL CODES

An UCL is identifiable by a 6 digit fully hierarchical code. This comprises a S/T, SOS and SOSR and an UCL identifier. An UCL identifier is only unique if it is preceded by the S/T, SOS and SOSR identifiers. It is therefore possible to identify the population range to which the UCL belongs from the component SOS and SOSR codes. This was not possible under the ASGC UCL coding system.

For example:

922002 Jervis Bay (L)

S/T	SOS	SOSR	UCL	UCL Name
9	2	2	002	Jervis Bay (L)

631777 Remainder of State/Territory (Tas.)

S/T	SOS	SOSR	UCL	UCL Name
6	3	1	777	Remainder of State/Territory (Tas.)

SPECIAL PURPOSE UCLs

Two UCLs are defined in each S/T for that part of a population which cannot be meaningfully assigned to a geographically defined region:

- Migratory - Offshore - Shipping
- No usual address

179997 Migratory - Offshore - Shipping (NSW)

S/T	SOS	SOSR	UCL	UCL Name
1	7	9	997	Migratory - Offshore - Shipping (NSW)

299994 No usual address (Vic.)

S/T	SOS	SOSR	UCL	UCL Name
2	9	9	994	No usual address (Vic.)

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SECTION OF STATE (SOS)

SOS DELIMITATION, IDENTIFIERS AND NAMES

SOS aggregates the UCLs on the basis of population ranges i.e. all UCLs in a S/T within a particular population range are combined into a single SOS.

There are 4 SOS identifiers and names. These are listed below with definitions.

SOS Identifiers and Names

Identifier	Name	Definition
0	Major Urban	Major Urban represents a combination of all Urban Centres with a population of 100,000 or more
1	Other Urban	Other Urban represents a combination of all Urban Centres with a population between 1,000 and 99,999
2	Bounded Locality	Bounded Localities represents a combination of all Bounded Localities
3	Rural Balance	Rural Balance represents the Remainder of State/Territory

S/Ts do not necessarily have all SOS codes.

SOS names are not unique across Australia.

SOS CODES

A SOS is identifiable by a 2 digit fully hierarchical code. This comprises a S/T and SOS identifiers. A SOS identifier is only unique if it is preceded by the S/T identifier.

For example:

20 Major Urban

S/T	SOS	SOS Name
2	0	Major Urban

93 Rural Balance

S/T	SOS	SOS Name
9	3	Rural Balance

SPECIAL PURPOSE SOS

Two SOSs are also defined in each S/T for that part of a population which cannot be meaningfully assigned to a geographically defined region:

- Migratory - Offshore - Shipping
- No usual address

67 Migratory - Offshore - Shipping (Tas.)

S/T	SOS	SOS Name
6	7	Migratory - Offshore - Shipping (Tas.)

59 No usual address (WA)

S/T	SOS	SOS Name
5	9	No usual address (WA)

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SECTION OF STATE RANGE (SOSR)

SOSR DELIMITATION

SOSR disaggregates the SOS on the basis of population ranges i.e. all UCLs in a S/T within a particular population range are combined into a single SOSR. SOSR regions are consequently not contiguous.

For Urban Centres these ranges are:

1,000,000 or more
 250,000 to 999,999
 100,000 to 249,999
 50,000 to 99,999
 20,000 to 49,999
 10,000 to 19,999
 5,000 to 9,999
 1,000 to 4,999

For Localities these ranges are:

500 or more

There is no population limit applied to the 'Remainder of State/Territory', which are included in a SOSR of 'Remainder of the State/Territory' for each S/T.

S/Ts do not necessarily have all SOSR codes.

SOSR NAMES

There are 8 SOSRs named for the population ranges they represent or the 'Remainder of State/Territory' and these are:

1 million or more
 250,000 to 999,999
 100,000 to 249,999
 50,000 to 99,999
 20,000 to 49,999
 10,000 to 19,999
 5,000 to 9,999
 1,000 to 4,999
 500 or more
 200 to 499
 Remainder of State/Territory

SOSR names are not unique in Australia.

SOSR CODES

A SOSR is identifiable by a 3 digit fully hierarchical code. This comprises S/T, SOS and SOSR identifiers. A SOSR identifier is only unique if it is preceded by the S/T and SOS identifiers.

For example:

501 1 million or more

S/T	SOS	SOSR	SOSR Name
5	0	1	1 million or more

431 Rural Balance

S/T	SOS	SOSR	SOSR Name
4	3	1	Rural Balance

The complete list of SOSR Identifiers within each SOS are:

Major Urban

SOS Identifier	SOSR Identifier	Population Range
0	1	1 million or more
0	2	250,000 to 999,999
0	3	100,000 to 249,999

Other Urban

SOS Identifier	SOSR Identifier	Population Range
1	1	50,000 to 99,999
1	2	20,000 to 49,999
1	3	10,000 to 19,999
1	4	5,000 to 9,999
1	5	1,000 to 4,999

Bounded Locality

SOS Identifier	SOSR Identifier	Population Range
2	1	500 or more
2	2	200 or 499

Rural Balance

SOS Identifier	SOSR Identifier	Name
3	1	Remainder of State/Territory

Migratory - Offshore - Shipping

SOS Identifier	SOSR Identifier	Name
7	9	Migratory - Offshore - Shipping

No usual address

SOS Identifier	SOSR Identifier	Name
9	9	No usual address

SPECIAL PURPOSE SOSR

Two SOSRs are also defined in each S/T for that part of a population which cannot be meaningfully assigned to a geographically defined region:

- Migratory - Offshore - Shipping
- No usual address

379 Migratory - Offshore - Shipping (Qld)

S/T	SOS	SOSR	UCL Name
3	7	9	Migratory - Offshore - Shipping (Qld)

399 No usual address (Qld)

S/T	SOS	SOSR	UCL Name
3	9	9	No usual address (Qld)

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RELATED MATERIAL

The related material listed below is available for the UCL/SOS structure from the ABS website at <https://www.abs.gov.au/geography>.

- Maps of the UCLs in .pdf format.
- Digital boundaries for the various UCL/SOS regions as MapInfo Interchange Format files (.mid/.mif) and ESRI Shape files (.shp).
- Codes, labels and hierarchies for UCL/SOS in '.csv' format.
- Selected correspondences between UCL/SOS and other ASGS regions.

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Explanatory Notes

Metadata for Digital Boundary Files

METADATA FOR DIGITAL BOUNDARY FILES

Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Volume 4 – Significant Urban Areas, Urban Centres and Localities, Section Of State (cat no. 1270.0.55.004)

Data Currency: 1 July 2011

Presentation Format: Digital boundaries

CUSTODIAN

Custodian: Australian Bureau of Statistics

DESCRIPTION

Abstract

The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) is a hierarchical classification system of geographical regions and consists of a number of interrelated structures. The ASGS brings all the regions for which the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publishes statistics within the one framework and will be used by the ABS for the collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics from the 1 July 2011. It provides a common framework of statistical geography and enables the production of statistics which are comparable and can be spatially integrated.

This product, **Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Volume 4 – Significant Urban Areas, Urban Centres and Localities, Section Of State, July 2011** (cat no. 1270.0.55.004) is the fourth in a series of Volumes that detail the various structures and regions of the ASGS. Its purpose is to outline the conceptual basis for the design of the Significant Urban Areas (SUAs), Urban Centres and Localities (UCLs), Section of State Range (SOSR) and Section of State (SOS). This product contains several elements including the manual, region names and codes and the digital boundaries.

The digital boundaries for Volume 4 of the ASGS represent the SUA and UCL/SOS, comprising:

- SUA
- UCL
- SOSR
- SOS

File Nomenclature:

File names have the format <file type>_<2011>_<AUST> where:

<file type> represents the type of boundaries in each file

SUA = Significant Urban Areas
UCL = Urban Centres and Localities
SOSR = Section of State Range
SOS = Section of State

<2011> represents 2011 the year of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Edition

<AUST> indicates the data covers all of Australia as defined in the ASGS Volume 1.

Within the files, the States and Territories are identified by unique one digit codes, as listed below.

Code	State/Territory
1	New South Wales
2	Victoria
3	Queensland
4	South Australia
5	Western Australia
6	Tasmania
7	Northern Territory
8	Australian Capital Territory
9	Other Territories

File Attributes:

All tables show file type, file name, spatial unit field and the data type.

File Type: Significant Urban Areas (SUA)

File Name (s): SUA_2011_AUST

Count	Field (mid/mif)	Field (ESRI shap)	Data Type
1	SUA_CODE_2011	SUA_CODE11	Character(4)
2	SUA_NAME_2011	SUA_NAME11	Character(50)
9	AREA_ALBERS_SQKM	AREA_SQKM	Float

File Type: Urban Centres and Localities (UCL)

File Name (s): UCL_2011_AUST

Count	Field (mid/mif)	Field (ESRI shp)	Data Type
1	UCL_CODE_2011	UCL_CODE11	Character (6)
2	UCL_NAME_2011	UCL_NAME11	Character (50)
3	SOSR_CODE_2011	SSR_CODE11	Character (3)
4	SOSR_NAME_2011	SSR_NAME11	Character (50)
5	SOS_CODE_2011	SOS_CODE11	Character (2)
6	SOS_NAME_2011	SOS_NAME11	Character (50)
7	STATE_CODE_2011	STE_CODE11	Character (1)
8	STATE_NAME_2011	STE_NAME11	Character (50)
9	AREA_ALBERS_SQKM	AREA_SQKM	Float

File Type: Section of State Range (SOSR)

File Name (s): SOSR_2011_AUST

Count	Field (mid/mif)	Field (ESRI shp)	Data Type
1	SOSR_CODE_2011	SSR_CODE11	Character (3)
2	SOSR_NAME_2011	SSR_NAME11	Character (50)
3	SOS_CODE_2011	SOS_CODE11	Character (2)
4	SOS_NAME_2011	SOS_NAME11	Character (50)
5	STATE_CODE_2011	STE_CODE11	Character (1)
6	STATE_NAME_2011	STE_NAME11	Character (50)
7	AREA_ALBERS_SQKM	AREA_SQKM	Float

File Type: Section of State (SOS)

File Name (s): SOS_2011_AUST

Count	Field (mid/mif)	Field (ESRI shp)	Data Type
1	SOS_CODE_2011	SOS_CODE11	Character(2)
2	SOS_NAME_2011	SOS_NAME11	Character(50)
3	STATE_CODE_2011	STE_CODE11	Character(1)
4	STATE_NAME_2011	STE_NAME11	Character(50)
5	AREA_ALBERS_SQKM	AREA_SQKM	Float

DATA CURRENCY

Date of Effect: 1 July 2011

DATASET STATUS

Progress: Completed dataset

Maintenance and Update Frequency: No further update for these boundaries are planned. The ASGS will be revised in 2016.

ACCESS

Stored Data Format:

The digital boundary files are in MapInfo Interchange Format (.MID .MIF) and ESRI Shapefile (.shp) format.

MapInfo Interchange Format can be imported directly into MapInfo and other common Geographic Information Systems (GIS) or desktop mapping packages. The .MID .MIF files are text format and can be edited and manipulated for import to less common GIS and CAD systems.

The .MID .MIF files cannot be used directly with viewing tools such as MapInfo ProViewer.

Access Constraints:

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Datum:

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94)

The digital boundary files have the datum specified as 116 (GDA94). Users of MapInfo 6.0 or later are able to load data sets based on GDA94 directly, without transformation. Earlier versions of MapInfo cannot interpret GDA94 correctly and there may be alignment problems between data sets based on this datum and other earlier datums.

Projection:

Geographical (i.e. Latitudes and Longitudes)

Geographic Extent:

Geographic Australia.

DATA QUALITY

Lineage:

Mesh Blocks (MB) are the building blocks of the ASGS regions. MB boundaries were created using various sources including the PSMA digital topographic datasets and ABS SLA boundaries, zoning information from state planning agencies and imagery.

Positional Accuracy:

Positional accuracy is an assessment of the closeness of the location of the spatial objects in relation to their true positions on the earth's surface.

The positional accuracy includes:

- a horizontal accuracy assessment
- a vertical accuracy assessment.

Positional accuracy for ABS boundaries is dependent on the accuracy of the features they have been aligned to. ABS boundaries are aligned to a number of layers supplied by PSMA with an accuracy of +/-50 mm. PSMA layers and their positional accuracy are as follows:

- Transport and Topography
+/- 2 meters in urban areas and +/- 10 meters in rural and remote areas
- CadLite
+/- 2 meters in urban areas and +/- 10 meters in rural and remote areas
- Administrative Boundaries
Derived from the cadastre data from each Australian State and Territory jurisdiction.
- Greenspace and Hydrology
Relative spatial accuracy of these themes reflects that of the jurisdictional source data. The accuracy is +/- 2 metres in urban areas and +/- 10 metres in rural and remote areas.

Attribute Accuracy:

All codes and labels for the ASGS 2011 SUAs, UCLs, SOSRs and SOS are fully validated.

Logical Consistency:

Spatial units are closed polygons. Attribute records without spatial objects have been included in the data for administrative purposes.

Completeness:

All levels of the 2011 ASGS SUAs, UCLs, SOSRs and SOS are represented.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Contact: ABS Geography

Contact information:

Email: geography@abs.gov.au

Information About CSV Files

INFORMATION ABOUT CSV FILES

The product **Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Volume 4 – Significant Urban Areas, Urban Centres and Localities, Section of State** (cat no. 1270.0.55.004) contains comma-separated value (.csv) files. These files list the codes, labels and hierarchies for the regions within the ASGS Urban Centre Localities (UCL) / Section of State (SOS) Structure and the ASGS Significant Urban Areas (SUA) Structure.

There are four .csv files listing codes, names and hierarchies:

- SA1_UCL_SOSR_SOS_2011_AUST.csv
- SA2_SUA_2011_AUST.csv
- UCL_2011_AUST.csv
- SUA_2011_AUST.csv

FILE CONTENTS:

SA1_UCL_SOSR_SOS_2011_AUST.csv contains the following fields:

- SA1_MAINCODE_2011
- UCL_CODE_2011
- UCL_NAME_2011
- SOSR_CODE_2011
- SOSR_NAME_2011
- SOS_CODE_2011
- SOS_NAME_2011

- STATE_CODE_2011
- STATE_NAME_2011
- AREA_ALBERS_SQKM (of the SA1s)

SA2_SUA_2011_AUST.csv contains the following fields:

- SA2_MAINCODE_2011
- SA2_NAME_2011
- SUA_CODE_2011
- SUA_NAME_2011
- AREA_ALBERS_SQKM (of the SA2s)

UCL_2011_AUST.csv contains the following fields:

- UCL_CODE_2011
- UCL_NAME_2011
- SOSR_CODE_2011
- SOSR_NAME_2011
- SOS_CODE_2011
- SOS_NAME_2011
- STATE_CODE_2011
- STATE_NAME_2011
- AREA_ALBERS_SQKM (of the UCLs)

SUA_2011_AUST.csv contains the following fields:

- SUA_CODE_2011
- SUA_NAME_2011
- AREA_ALBERS_SQKM (of the SUAs)

Information About PDF Maps

INFORMATION ABOUT ASGS SIGNIFICANT URBAN AREAS (SUA) & URBAN CENTRES AND LOCALITIES (UCL) PDF MAPS

The product **Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 4 – Significant Urban Areas, Urban Centres and Localities, Section of State** (cat no. 1270.0.55.004) contains Adobe .pdf format maps for the SUAs and UCLs.

The SUA .pdf maps are available for each State/Territory (S/T), with the only exception being Other Territories (OT).

The UCL .pdf maps are available for each S/T. In each S/T there is a map that shows all the UCLs for each Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (GCCSA) and then maps for each of the Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4) outside the GCCSAs. OTs do not have a GCCSA therefore there is only one map for the SA4 of Other Territories.

Information about the GCCSAs and SA4s can be found in the following product:

Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 – Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011 (cat no. 1270.0.55.001)

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard
Aust.	Australia
GCCSA	Greater Capital City Statistical Area
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
OT	Other Territories
Qld	Queensland
S Dist	statistical district
S/T	state or territory
SA	South Australia
SA1	Statistical Area Level 1
SA2	Statistical Area Level 2
SOS	Section of State
SOSR	Section of State Range
SSD	statistical subdivision
SUA	Significant Urban Area
Tas.	Tasmania
UCL	Urban Centre and Locality
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

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